

Report of the Pastoral Care Visitor

Susie Dutcher

From February through May of 2011, I attended a program conducted by Bishop Anderson House at Rush Hospital. Bishop Anderson House is an Episcopal Charity that provides pastoral care at Stroger Hospital and conducts training for lay pastoral visitors.

As part of the training I worked with Father Bill to make parish visits for St. Gregory's. Bill went with me for my initial visits to introduce me, but it also showed his support for my new ministry.

I was licensed as a Eucharistic minister and created a service handout to use for bringing communion to parishioners.

After a commissioning service at all three services (and finding my name listed as a staff person), I worked with Bill and Meredith as part of the pastoral care team. It is hard to describe how rewarding my new ministry has been. I'll just say, this is what I should be doing.

In 2012, I'd like to encourage another lay person to take the training (it gives you confidence) and be added to the pastoral care team.